

REMARKS

Claims 29, 31-34, 36-37, 39-42, 46-49 and 51-54 are pending. Claims 1-28, 30, 35, 38, 43-45 and 50 are currently canceled. Claims 37 and 42 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 29, 41 and 52 are currently amended. No new claims have been added. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 29, 31-34, 36, 39-41, 46-49, 51 and 52-54 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,433,073 (Kantner) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,954,598 (Baghdachi).

The present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,433,073 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, jointly owned by 3M Innovative Properties Company. Therefore, U.S. Patent No. 6,433,073 is disqualified as prior art under 35 USC § 103(c). Withdrawal of the USC § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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